Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2150
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 3551

LIMDIS

CORRECTEDCOPY (MRN 3551 VICE 2150)

FOR SCHLAUDMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: AID, PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

REFERENCE: A. MY APRIL 2 LETTER TO ASST. SECRETARY ROGERS B. APRIL 23 MEMCON BETWEEN DCM DORRANCE AND RICHARD FLETCHER ON IAF GRANT TO SWCC (AVAILABLE ARA/CAR)

- 1. ROSS COGGINS, CARIBBEAN REGIONAL DIRECTOR, AND STEVE VETTER OF SUBJECT FOUNDATION CALLED ON ME AUGUST 20. THEY ADVISED THAT THEY HAD CALLED ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BELANFANTI AUGUST 19 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER GRANT TO SWCC (REF (A) AND (B)).
- 2. MR RESERVATIONS ON U.S. GRANTS TO THIS ORGANIZATION REF (A) HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONVEYED TO MR. VETTER. HE HAD ASSURED ME THERE WOULD BE NO CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER GRANT THIS ACTIVITY UNTIL FULL CONSIDERATION BY IAF BOARD AT WHICH TIME STATE WOULD HAVE AN INPUT THROUGH ITS STATE BOARD MEMBERS, INCLUDING BILL ROGERS. CONFIDENTIAL

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- 3. REB (B) PROVIDES ADDITIONAL GROUNDS MY RESERVATIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RAISED SIMILAR CONCERNS TO ME. AS DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE POLITICAL SITUATION HERE IS UNCERTAIN AT BEST, ACCUSATIONS OF CIA ACTIVITY ARE RAMPANT AND APPROACHING PARANOIA AT ALL LEVELS OF GOJ DESPITE ALL OUR ASSURANCES, AND I AM BEING CONTINUALLY ASKED WHETHER I AM AWARE OF ALL USG ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA. MY REPLY HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN AFFIRMATIVE, RELYING ON ASSURANCES GIVEN ME. THERE ARE INEVITABLY GAPS IN MY AWARENESS, SUCH AS INPUTS BY ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS CUSTOMS, DEA, IRS AND OTHERS, OWING TO PROXIMITY OF U.S., BUT I DO NOT CONSIDER THOSE USUALLY CRUCIAL, AND WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THEM IN PROPER CHANNELS.
- 4. IN THE CASE OF IAF INVOLVEMENT I CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT ANSWER IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY THE ATTITUDE OF ITS REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH IS UNCOOPERATIVE AND SECRETIVE AT BEST. THEY SEEM TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT THEY ARE A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT AGENCY AND THAT I HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR OR CONTROL OF THEIR ACTIVITIES HERE WHATSOEVER.
- 5. THEY FURTHER INDICATE THAT THE ONLY CONTACT WITH STATE IS THROUGH THE GOVERNING BOARD OF IAF, BUT ALSO INFORMED ME THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO MEETING OF THE BOARD SINCE THEIR PREVIOUS VISIT THIS PAST SPRING.
- 6. THEY NOW INFORM ME THAT THE FOLLOWING GRANTS ARE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION FOR JAMAICA.

A. ORGANIZATION OF CARIBBEAN BAR ASSOCIATION: APPROXIMATELY J\$300,000, PRIMARILY FOR REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT LEGAL AID CLINICS FOR THE POOR. (RONALD THWAITES (SEE REF A) IS CONNECTED WITH THIS GROUP.)

B. ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES: J\$100,000 PREVIOUSLY GRANTED TO ESTABLISH "FLOW STATIONS" THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN FOR COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH. "EXTENSION" OF THIS GRANT BEING CONSIDERED. CONFIDENTIAL

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C. MYSTIC REVELATIONS OF RASTAFARI COOPERATIVE, LTD: UNDERSTAND REQUEST FOR J\$200,000 GRANT FOR RECORDING STUDIO TURNED DOWN BUT THAT J\$2,750 ALREADY GRANTED FOR TRAINING FOR OFFICE STAFF, AND A FURTHER GRANT FOR UNKNOWN AMOUNT FOR MATERIAL INSTRUMENTS BEING REVIEWED.

D. SUGAR WORKERS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL (SWCC): J\$200,000 GRANT

UNDER CONSIDERATION WHICH WOULD BE FUNNELED THROUGH SOCIAL ACTION CENTER. (THIS WAS PROJECT DISCUSSED WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTER BELANFANTI AND SWCC IS THE OUTFIT WHICH HAS BEEN OF CONCERN TO GOJ. MINISTER BELANFANTI, ACCORDING TO VETTER AND COGGINS, WAS NON COMMITAL IN TERMS GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARD PROJECT.)

E. MINISTER OF HOUSING, ANTHONY SPAULDING, HAS REQUESTED IAF TO CONSIDER FUNDING A COOPERATIVE SUPERMARKET IN TRENCH TOWN ARE OF KINGSTON. COST UNKNOWN BUT WOULD BE IN EXCESS OF J\$100,000. IAF HAS ALREADY TURNED DOWN A PREVIOUS SPAULDING PROPOSAL FOR A SPORTS ARENA IN THE SAME AREA.

F. IAF IS PROVIDING A GRANT TO SUPPORT REX NETTLEFORD FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH OF CONSULTATIONS WITH IAF THIS SEPTEMBER IN WASHINGTON. NETTLEFORD IS PROFESSOR AT TRADE UNION INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST INDIES, AND ACTIVE IN VARIOUS SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMS. HE IS LEFTIST, AND NOT A FRIEND OF THE U.S. -- THOUGH LESS RADICAL THAN SOME ADVISORS SURROUNDING PRIME MINISTER MANLEY.

G. INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES: J\$500,000 FOR PHYSICAL PLANT AND OTHER SUPPORT. SOME OF THIS FUNDING APPARENTLY HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED; NOT CLEAR HOW MUCH ADDITIONAL TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM THIS OR FURTHER FUNDING.

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FOR SCHLAUDMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

7. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT THE TOTAL POTENTIAL SUM
OF APPROXIMATELY J\$1 MILLION IS SUBSTANTIAL
AND EXCEEDS AID 1976 GRANTS. MOREOVER, MOST OF
THE PROJECT PROPOSALS ARE BEING HANDLED BY IAF THROUGH
PROMINENT LOCAL RADICALS WHO ARE AT FOREFRONT IN VARIOUS

LOCAL CAMPAIGNS AGAINST USG "DESTABILIZATION" AND "CIA ACTIVITIES". THIS PARTICULARLY APPLIES TO CARL STONE AND RONALD THWAITES (SEE REFERENCES). AS INDICATED REF(B), THIS ALREADY HAS OCCASIONED HIGH-LEVEL SUSPICIONS IN GOJ.

8. I HAVE VIRTUALLY NO INFORMATION OR BASIS ON WHICH
TO PASS ON DESIRABILITY OF THESE GRANTS NOR TO EVALUATE
THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN ACCOMPLISHING THEIR SINGULARLY
VAGUELY STATED GOALS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT
FUNDS DISBURSED ARE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND AM
ASTONISHED BY APPARENT LACK OF PROGRAM PREPARATION AND
ACCOUNTABILITY COMPARED TO MINIMUM AID REQUIREMENTS IN
JUSTIFYING EXPENDITUE OF TAX DOLLARS. IT SEEMS TO ME
THAT THERE MIGHT BE A CONSIDERABLE OUTCRY IN THE
PRESS AND SOME U.S. GOVERNMENT QAURTERS IF TRUTH WERE
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KNOWN.

9. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT PL 93-475 MAKES THE AMBASSADOR RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL USG AGENCY ACTIVITY IN HIS ASSIGNED COUNTRY. IS IAF AN EXCEPTION AS THEY SEEM TO HOLD?

10. IAF REPRESENTATIVES NOW RAISE WITH ME POSSIBLE EFFECT ON GOJ OF WITHHOLDING GRANTS, ESPECIALLY ONE TO SWCC, AFTER INDICATING FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. I HAVE EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT POLICY REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA IN VARIOUS FORMS IS PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED AT HIGHEST LEVEL IN USG AND MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE.

11. IN ANY CASE, NO MATTER HOW WORTHY THEIR MOTIVES MAY BE, IAF IS INVOLVING ITSELF IN POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS WITHOUT PRIOR EMBASSY, AND APPARENTLY DEPARTMENT, DISCUSSION TO OUR CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT AND

CONCERN. IN SOME QUARTERS HERE, INCLUDING GOJ, THEIR EFFORTS ARE UNDOUBTDMLY CONSIDERED TO BE CONNECTED WITH "DESTABILIZING" MACHINATIONS OF THE CIA OR OTHERS IN USG.

12. UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF TIME AND PLACE AND WITH BETTER COORDINATION I CAN CONCEIVE OF USEFUL IAF PROJECTS, BUT GIVEN HERE AND NOW SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INITIATE THOROUGH APPRAISAL IAF INVOLVEMENT AND PROCEDURES.

13. MEANWHILE, I WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION RE PARA 9
AND REQUEST THAT ANY FURTHER IAF GRANTS TO ANY PERSON
OR GROUP IN ANY LDC CONNECTED WITH SWCC BE
STRONGLY OPPOSED AS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE
USG. FURTHERMORE, REQUEST THAT NO VISITS BY IAF
PERSONNEL TAKE PLACE TILL FURTHER NOTICE AND CERTAINLY
NONE WITHOUT DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY PRIOR CONCURRENCE
BASED ON FULL INFORMATION AS TO PURPOSE OF VISIT AND
PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO BE CONTACTED. I HAVE
EXPLAINED MY POSITION AT LENGTH TO IAF REPRESENTATIVES,
BUT THEY APPEAR UNWILLING TO ACCEPT IT.
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